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Economic and Social Council

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Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-sixth session
4-15 March 2002
Item 3 (c) (i) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world

Statement submitted by the Women's National Commission, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2002/1

02-22407 (E) 310102

Eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world

The Women's National Commission (WNC) is the UK Government's independent advisory body on women. The WNC has 222 partner organisations and represents several million women throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Women's National Commission is pleased that the Commission on the Status of Women is focusing global attention on the eradication of poverty through the empowerment of women at its 46th session.

In the United Kingdom we are concerned about the growing disparity between the rich and the poor. This disparity has a detrimental impact upon women, many of whom face compounded discrimination of gender, race and age.

We believe that those in positions of authority and influence have a responsibility to understand the nature of poverty, its causes, and its gender dimension. Poverty is not solely about income; women often suffer from a lack of other resources, such as information, which often leads to social exclusion and generates poor health.

Low Pay. Many women work in low paid jobs, and even when doing the same jobs frequently earn less than their male counterparts. Governments have a responsibility to ensure that they put in place provisions to allow all members of society to have access to a minimum income and equal pay. Such an income should be set at the level necessary to maintain the health and well-being of children, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

Pensions. We are concerned about the poverty faced by women when they reach pensionable age. Governments must provide adequate pension provision for women, especially those who remain at home in a "caring" role during their working life. Women earn less over their lifetimes than men, lose income by taking years out to raise children and care for elderly and disabled relatives and partners. They are often faced with poverty after the death of a partner. Governments must ensure that the correct policies are in place to support women through these difficult years.

Education. Governments and religious leaders need to provide girls and women with access to all forms of education throughout their lives, in order to equip them with the necessary social and economic skills to allow them to play a full and inclusive part in today's society, and to access their fair share of society's wealth. Governments need to ensure that developmental and gender differences, and the needs of girls, are built into teacher training. Governments must also make a firm commitment to ensure that equality is promoted in education and careers advice, for example, through the promotion of non-stereotypical careers.

Health. Good health is an essential element in the elimination of poverty, this is especially important with regard to the reproductive health of women. Women need to be empowered to be able to control their own fertility and to make the choices that are appropriate for their circumstances. Governments should provide women with the education and resources needed. The United Kingdom has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in Europe and this has direct links with poverty and social exclusion – both cause and effect. Governments must work with civil society, NGOs and faith communities to develop strategies and policies aimed at reducing the number of teenage pregnancies and school age mothers.

We ask Governments to address, as a matter or urgency, the gender dimension of poverty, and ask that they ensure that the needs of **all** women, be they married, single, widows, immigrants, asylum seekers, or trafficked women, are heard and heeded in the formulation and implementation of strategies and policies relating to women.

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

Statement submitted by the World Veterans Federation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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* E/CN.6/2002/1.

02-22413 (E) 050202

The World Veterans Federation (WVF) is an international non-governmental organization which brings together those who have experienced the sufferings of war, as combatants – either side by side or as adversaries- and as civilian victims of war. A major objective of the Federation is to contribute to the establishment of a more peaceful, just and free world based on the principles of the United Nations Charter and the International Bill of Human Rights. Throughout its history (WVF was founded in 1950), the organization has been a strong voice for peace and the resolution of conflicts.

At its 22nd General Assembly in Seoul in 1997, WVF recommended that *"with the support of member associations a comprehensive platform of activities in the field of conflict prevention be established, to form an integral part of a common programme designed to eliminate the causes of intolerance between peoples and ethnic groups, prejudice, discrimination and the divisions which lead to international conflicts and to civil and international wars"* In support of world peace, the WVF at its 23 General Assembly in Paris in 2000, noted *"with concern the alarming escalation of armed conflicts in the four corners of the world"* and called upon *"the international community to find a peaceful and political solution to the different conflicts around the world. . .(and) requests the WVF member associations to appeal to their respective governments inciting them to reduce arms sales, especially to poor countries "*.

The World Veterans Federation applauds the Commission on the Status of Women for focusing on ***"Eradicating Poverty, including empowerment of women in a global world"*** during its 46th Session in March 2002. While there are different interpretations of the root causes of poverty: from unfettered globalization to unequal status in society, to a skewed distribution of resources, to cultural practices, to discriminatory inheritance laws, to inadequate education and training, to incompetent or/and corrupt national structures, women suffer poverty disproportionately. If there is a war, it increases the possibility that they will live in poverty.

Not only can women caught in armed conflicts, through no fault of their own, lose their homes and communities, but also lose their husbands who provide for the basic necessities of life for themselves and their children. They can become stateless, without legal status or papers, and without the protection of a government or other legal entity. . They quickly can become an extremely fragile population: prime targets for sexual abuse, enforced prostitution, trafficking, and economic exploitation. They are refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons; they suffer disabilities from mines and other weaponry and experience emotional traumas. They are among the most vulnerable populations – part of the detritus of war. If there were no more wars, they would be part of history. Unhappily they are part of current events.

It is crucial that the consequences of wars be a major concern for the international community. As an organization of former combatants and civilian victims of

war, the WVF has dedicated itself to improve the situation and well being of those who having been impacted by war return to a life changed forever in a post-war environment. Those who have endured physical and mental disabilities, displacement from their homes, the breakup of family, and the loss of financial and social support are in need of assistance . We urge the UN CSW to mitigate the consequences of war for women by exploring and developing strategies to strengthen their economic and social position.

The World Veterans Federation concerned about the gaps and omissions of such assistance in many countries , promulgated a set of "**Guidelines to Basic Rights for War Veterans and Victims of War**"" which was submitted to the United Nations Commission on Social Development in 1998. In a Declaration accompanying the Guidelines, the WVF reaffirmed its commitment "**to ease the suffering and enhance the quality of life of victims of war and in general of all persons with disabilities, whether they are physical, sensorial or cognitive.**" Acknowledging that in today's conflict areas, which are derived from internal disputes, ninety percent of the casualties are civilians, mostly women and children, the Federation suggested vigorous responses were needed from governments and international agencies to meet the needs of the victims. A series of Legislation Conferences sponsored by the WVF brought governments to the table to share information and study proposals outlined in the WVF Guidelines.

There is perhaps no more brutal picture of the consequences of war for women, including a lifetime of poverty, than the story of the "comfort women" of World War II. These were the hundreds of thousands of Asian women and girls (Korean, Chinese, Filipino, and others) who were captured by the imperial Japanese army in its conquering march across Asia and forced into sexual servitude for the soldiers till the end of the war in 1945. For those who survived the slavery, and there were many who died along the way or committed suicide, the shame of their servitude precluded returning to their homelands and resuming their lives as they expected. Most of them had serious mental and physical health problems which dogged them all their subsequent lives.

Perhaps even more devastating was the shame that went with their sexual servitude which their culture attributed to their experiences, involuntary though they were. Instead of receiving support from family and community upon their release from captivity , the "comfort women" were ostracized and isolated . Many who anticipated such rejection never returned to their homes, but instead , unskilled and unprepared, with no prospects of marriage or any kind of family life, sank into anonymity by taking the lowest paying jobs available to them. Poverty- stricken, isolated from any kind of social support system, the surviving "comfort women" led unfulfilled and embittered lives. Only in recent years, beginning in the last decade did the tragic story of the "comfort women" see the light of day. The United Nations initiated its own investigation appointing a Special Rapporteur to look into the allegations, who affirmed the previous findings of those that the comfort women had been severely abused and exploited, and were indeed "**military sexual slaves**". The WVF espoused their cause early on, and has joined in efforts to obtain an apology and reparations. A recent resolution stated:

"WVF cdondemns all violations of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict; ...Expresses the hope that in the near future all the countries in the world will have to participate and seek proper and effective responses through the UN and specialized agencies and the international NGOs concerned to eliminate the violation of the rights of women in war time, emphasizing the need for appropriate systems and special compensation for the victims,..."

At its 23rd General Assembly held in Paris in 2000, the WVF addressed the issue of victims of violence during war in a resolution as follows.

"Noting that victims of violence, especially women, suffer from its consequences to a large extent and from discrimination also after the conflicts have ended in the individual states;

"Recalling that public opinion does not pay the necessary attention to the needs of these women for an appropriate assistance;

"Considers it important that further assistance should be provided and offered to these groups of persons, implying material and psycho-social help and comprehensive health care."

Whereas governments often will consider some health care benefits and other post-war assistance for former combatants, women victims of war are likely to be overlooked. War widows are one such group. For centuries, war widows were abandoned or abused. In today's world, they are likely to be sunk in poverty and isolated without state or private support. A current example are the widows of Afghanistan who under the Taliban had no means for survival and were not permitted to work – their plight (for those who survived) is pitiful. We urge the CSW, as it focuses on the eradication of poverty and the empowerment of women will take up their cause. In a resolution entitled "PENSIONS FOR WIDOWS AND OTHER ELIGIBLE PERSONS, WVF called for remedial action on behalf of war widows .

"Considering that pensions and allowances granted to widows and dependents of war veterans and war disabled are insufficient and do not enable them to meet their needs; Noting the price increase in medicine and health care; Noting that some national legislations still include economic differences, giving rise to inequalities and discrimination that are obviously unfair;

"Urges, as a consequence, those governments concerned to introduce legislative measures that would guarantee pensions and allowances and harmonize legal provisions in order to avoid inequalities...."

Another large female population in desperate economic, social and psychological circumstances as a result of wars are the 50 million refugees and internally displaced , the great majority of whom are women. While the international community seeks to provide basic survival assistance in the way of shelter, food and water, protection is minimal for the refugees, allowing them to be subject to all kinds of exploitation and sexual abuse violating their human rights. WVF has long called attention to their impoverished and threatened status and urged that skills training and education be included as part of the

basic spectrum of assistance provided by international agencies, so that they can take care of themselves and their children when they are repatriated. Another WVF resolution (2000) calls for "ASSISTANCE FOR RETURNING REFUGEES:

"Noting that many States have accepted refugees from States in conflict who now want to return into their native countries;

"Recalling that the necessary protection and security must absolutely be reestablished; i.e., by mine clearance;

"Considers it important that the returning refugees receive the necessary protection as well as the help they need in order to be able to build up their lives in the destroyed areas;

"Requests that the donor States coordinate their assistance in such a way that people with disabilities be given special attention and access to the services they require upon their repatriation."

The World Veterans Federation has been an advocate of the creation of an International Criminal Court for many years. As the ratification process of the Statute written during the Rome Conference in 1998 nears completion, it is clear that it will enter into force in the near future. This is an important step to put teeth into international law, and one that is beneficial for women by protecting their human rights. In its resolution passed in Paris in 2000, the WVF stated :

"Observing that during multiple internal and international conflicts an ever increasing number of grave offences against International Humanitarian law are perpetrated throughout the world, in total violation of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 to which certain States responsible for these crimes are parties and that therefore it is urgent that the International Criminal Court put an end to the impunity of those responsible for the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression,

"Urges the member associations to be strong advocates for gender justice so that gender-based crimes against women will be prosecuted with the same dedication as other crimes and no exemptions would be allowed for religious or cultural reasons..."

By ending impunity for criminals who commit gender-based crimes of any kind, the Statute for the International Criminal Court promises to be a powerful deterrent to the exploitation of women in war, since such crimes will be fully prosecuted. The existence of the Court will enhance women's human rights by shielding them from rape, sexual violence and other abuse. As a result, it is likely to protect women from the kind of economic exploitation that vulnerable women have suffered in the past. . Hopefully, the trauma and poverty that the "comfort women" of World War II experienced will never occur again.

Best copy available

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

Statement submitted by Rotary International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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* E/CN.6/2002/1.

02-22419 (E) 290102

For many women in poverty around the world, each day is a struggle for survival. Basic education is a luxury and many women are forced to use whatever means possible to feed their families. Numerous women suffer from violence in and outside their homes and many women also lack essential healthcare.

Rotary's Service to Women

The Rotary International Board of Directors has adopted a statement on the position and needs of women. Rotary recognizes that the status of women is inherently related to the security of families and that improving the status of women will benefit all communities.

Rotary encourages members to develop projects that address the needs of women who are living in poverty by providing women with access to education, healthcare, as well as economic and social development in their communities.

Rotary clubs and districts initiate projects that benefit poverty stricken women by offering vocational training, prenatal care, revolving loan funds, and basic health services.

The following project examples can be adapted to benefit women around the world.

Health Issues

India The Rotaract Club of Ootacamund organized a workshop educating local medical personnel on practices to keep women safe during childbirth. The workshop also provided health safety tips for children and adolescents. Eminent medical experts involved in this conference included representatives from UNICEF.

Domestic Issues

Canada The Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty has created a scholarship for those women living in an emergency shelter for battered women. The scholarship pays education expenses and also assists women in establishing a new and independent life.

Education and Vocational Training

United States The Rotary Club of Syracuse, New York sponsored a family literacy camp. Fourteen inner-city mothers attended literacy classes and workshops on self-esteem. Rotary club members also assisted in operating the camp.

Economic Sustainable Development

Bangladesh The Rotary Clubs of Dhaka Buriganga and Richmond have established a micro-credit program for 160 destitute women living in the slum areas of Dhaka. The women invest their loan funds in diverse enterprises, such as shoe shops, sari sales, and grocery shops. These loans allow for women to attain financial independence.

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians who are members of more than 30,462 Rotary clubs in 162 countries.

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Statement submitted by Zonta International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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Zonta International, an organization of executive professionals whose objectives include improving the legal, political, economic, education, health, and professional status of women, is working to end the discrimination against women that impedes their rights to human development.

Since a woman's right to development still encounters many barriers rooted in domestic law and social practices, Zonta International strongly supports the work of the CEDAW Committee in holding countries accountable for commitments made through

* E/CN.6/2002/1.

02-22425 (E) 290102

ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. At its 2000 Convention, Zonta International adopted a resolution that all its clubs worldwide advocate for the adoption of CEDAW, the ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW, and the removal by State parties of all reservations to CEDAW that impede the human rights of women.

Zonta International's is currently partnering with UNICEF in two projects that improve the life-long health of poor women and girls. One project focuses on eradicating female genital circumcision in Burkina Faso. Another is the inoculation of women and girls against maternal and neo-natal tetanus in Nepal.

An additional project of Zonta International with UNIFEM addresses violence against women in India, which is to a serious impediment to Indian women's full participation and involvement in economically durable, socially just and politically free development.

Zonta International is a member of Project 5-0, a network of international women's organizations that particularly focus on funding projects that increase the economic and productive capacity of poor women.

Zonta International strongly supports the need to increase the number of women in positions of political leadership to aid in the enactment of laws and that are gender-sensitive, that will the real needs of the 70% of the world's population living in extreme poverty.

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Statement submitted by Legião da Boa Vontade, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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The Legion of Good Will (Legião da Boa Vontade), an NGO in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), brings to the attention of the Commission on Status of Women, the relevant work of the NGO(s) who have been cooperating with the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, emphasis to the *"Education and training of Women", considered as a human right issue, essential for the goals of equality, development and Peace.*

* E/CN.6/2002/1.

02-22592 (E) 290102

In its permanent campaign against hunger and for the valuation of women and their eternal spirits, the Legion of Good Will promotes Charity as an essential tool for the transformation of life on our planet. As the President of the Organization, Mr. Jose de Paiva Netto declared: "Charity should be the inspiring light of peoples' Governments. Charity is the most powerful equipment for Peace, when it is also understood as Fraternity and Solidarity (...)". Very apropos a recent editorial in "The New York Times" entitled "Health Aid for Poor Countries" attests a sensitive awareness to eradicate poverty in the World. It says: "...The Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, led by Prof. Jeffrey Sachs of Harvard, asks rich countries to spend an extra one-tenth of 1 percent of their economies on the health of the poor. In Washington's case, this would mean doubling current health aid, an extra $10 billion a year. If all wealthy countries cooperated, it would add $38 billion a year to health spending by 2015. The commission argues that if that money went to poor nations that also spent more and improved their health care systems, these countries would see at least $360 billion a year in economic gains, lifting millions of people out of poverty. And not incidentally, eight million lives a year would be saved."

Still back in the eighties, Paiva Netto wrote " we know that two percent of the world's production would put an end to poverty on our Planet. This is what Dr. Mario Altenfelder, a Brazilian expert in this field, revealed. And why this does not happen? Because many peoples' heart are still cold. Economics has been too distant from God, forgetting that citizens are the Divine Capital, for human life is the supreme Asset. Solidarity has expanded from the shining field of ethics to become a strategy for Men and Women to ensure their survival. To the globalization of impoverishment we counterpose the globalization of Love as a powerful instrument of reaction to the pseudofatalism of poverty (...), for this is the most important globalization of all. Thousands of years have passed but Virgil is still updated when he warns in the famous Aeneid: "Hunger is a bad adviser". Based on that warning, decades ago I launched to the awareness of nations the proposition of a new kind of economical doctrine: the Economics of Human Solidarity, within the Strategy of Survival".

Having children and women's education as a core issue to eradicate illiteracy, poverty and violence in the world, the Legion has disseminated United Nations information through media, press releases, organizing interviews and workshops throughout Latin America and USA, empowering women in her life cycle in a globalizing world. The Legion of Good Will's international, educational and social programs have improved the lives of multitudes of people in need, through its 552 welfare centers in the world, composed by Day-Care Centers, homes for Elderly People, community centers, Mother&Child health care program and since 1962, the traditional Midnight Charity Round – Mobile Soup Kitchen for those who live in the streets. Again quoting the President of the Organization Mr. Paiva Netto: "The Legion constitutes an example of the difference Love can make in people's lives. And all we had when its work started was merely Love - The word that sums up all the meaning of pedagogy. Nothing else...

We finish this statement affirming that there will be a majestic time when all people will accept but one dogma, that of fraternity without borders. Some day, all this will be shared by all terrestrial Beings, weary of hatred and intolerant separations. God is the Light of the World".

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Statement submitted by International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, Soroptimist International, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; All India Women's Conference, Associated Country Women of the World, Baha'i International Community, International Federation of University Women, International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, International Federation of Women Lawyers, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, United States Committee for UNIFEM, and World Young Women's Christian Association, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Altrusa International, Armenian International Women's Association, and United Nations Association of the USA, non-governmental organizations on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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* E/CN.6/2002/1.

02-22610 (E) 300102

We, the international and national non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and members of the NGO Committee on UNIFEM, support and congratulate UNIFEM for its twenty-five years of innovative work to reduce poverty among women by strengthening women's economic security and rights.

UNIFEM has focused these efforts in three critical areas:

1.) Building capacity to manage globalization and economic transition from the perspective of poor women

- Analyzing trade regimes and identifying successful strategies for engendering trade agreements to expand women's economic opportunities
- Helping establish gender advisory structures and bring representatives from women's groups to trade negotiations
- Strengthening understanding of macroeconomics from a gender perspective among women advocates and policy-makers
- Supporting the creation and/or strengthening of advocacy networks to influence economic policy and decision-making

2.) Strengthening women's economic capacity, rights and bargaining power to achieve sustainable livelihoods

- Supporting market analyses that build women`s capacity to access and shape markets by identifying products and services women can produce
- Enhancing women's economic capacity, rights and bargaining power by providing opportunities to hone technical and marketing skills, strengthening negotiating and

bargaining tactics, fostering women's access to and influence over new technologies, building women's networks and business associations

- Promoting trade fairs to highlight women's economic potential and expand their market opportunities

3.) Promoting legal and regulatory reform to enable women's equal ownership and access to economic resources and assets

- Expanding the availability and use of data disaggregated by sex and age to support policy formation
- Sensitizing statisticians to gender needs and the value of disaggregated, survey design and censuses
- Undertaking gender analysis of national budgets
- Identifying policies and regulations that promote and impede women's abilities to secure sustainable livelihoods

UNIFEM's biennial report, *Progress of the World's Women 2000*, documents the links between women's economic, social and political status and rights, pointing out that the last decade has marginalized women's economic rights and empowerment. It recommends raising women's shares of administrative and managerial positions to at least 30% by 2005 and 50% by 2015 to address gender balance in decision-making and gender equality in the labour market.

UNIFEM has strengthened its advocacy to ensure that feminized poverty is the central focus of the Millennium goal of halving world poverty by 2015. Recognizing that women and girls are most affected by the economic instability and violence associated with armed conflict, UNIFEM has been a leader in building world peace.

We wholeheartedly endorse these and other important efforts of UNIFEM in supporting the work of governments and civil society in their work to address and re-dress the root causes of poverty, especially among women.

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Statement submitted by International Federation of Business and Professional Women, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Coalition against Trafficking in Women, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Miramed Institute, Mouvement pour l'abolition de la prostitution et de la pornographie et de toutes formes de violences sexuelles et discriminations sexistes, and World Federation for Mental Health, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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* E/CN.6/2002/1.

02-22634 (E) 280102

Statement on Eradicating Poverty by Eliminating Prostitution and Empowering Women and Girls

Reaffirming the principals set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the International Declaration of Human Rights; the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children Supplementing the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Recalling that "labour is not a commodity" according to the Constitution of the International Labour Organization and the Convention of Philadelphia;

Reaffirming the awareness of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in its 2001 Recommendations "that sex traffickers, sex tour operators, mail order bride agencies and brothel owners promote and pander to racist stereotypes of the women and children they exploit";

Reaffirming the General Assembly Resolution 52/98 of 12 December 1997 on traffic in women and girls and the Report of the Secretary General A/53/409 of 21 September 1998,

Reaffirming the commitment to mental health made at the 43rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women in the Economic and Social Council Resolution "Women and mental health, with emphasis on special groups" of 15 March 1999,

Recalling that governments have an obligation to punish any person who "procures, entices, or leads away, for the purposes of prostitution, another person, even with the consent of that person" as stated in the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of Others,

Alarmed that the sex industry at local and international levels has been exploiting the economic desperation of millions of women and children who have been disproportionately marginalized by the

structural adjustment programs of the last fifteen years, especially targeting adolescents, children, and women with young children, widows, refugees, and displaced persons;

Alarmed by the spread of HIV/AIDS worldwide,

Noting with grave concern that the phenomenon known as "globalization" has brought in its wake instability of family incomes, petty and high level corruption of government officials, organized crime, and diminished capacity and/or political will of governments to act on behalf of persons living in poverty; increased warfare and unchecked violence at all levels of society;

Noting further that the act of prostitution should not be called "sex work" as it is not a form of labor but the selling of a human body as a commodity for the sexual gratification of the customer and the profit of the pimp and which exposes the prostituted adolescent, child, woman or man to assault, kidnapping, torture, murder, especially in brothel settings in addition to the inherent violence of sexual exploitation itself;

Convinced by the experience of survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and by research that prostitution and trafficking disempower women and children and in an overwhelming majority of cases result in acute physical and mental suffering and disabilities; increased economic destitution; substance abuse and other debilitating behaviors as well as revictimization by societies which equate prostitution with a moral failure by the victim or which seek to deny its harm by dignifying it as a form of labor;

Recognizing that women and children have the right to real solutions to poverty rather than institutionalized or regulated prostitution; namely housing, education, healthcare, sufficient food and clean water; as well as the dignity of labour, legitimate renumeration sufficient to support themselves and their families; bodily integrity, freedom of movement and freedom from physical and psychological threat;

Urges the General Assembly to adopt a resolution for the elaboration of an additional protocol to the three conventions on slavery and slavery-like practices to strengthen the effectiveness of these conventions through an efficient mechanism;

Urges United Nations agencies, States Parties and civil society, to reject development policies and projects which intensify the marginalization of women and children or which place them at risk of sexual exploitation , substance abuse, or sexually transmitted diseases;

Urges United Nations agencies and States Parties in collaboration with NGOs to develop community-based prevention programs especially targeting children, adolescents, women with young children, widows, refugee and displaced women by offering alternative livelihood projects and educating about the risks of commercial sexual exploitation.

Urges United Nations treaty bodies, in particular the Committee on the Elimination on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the Committee on Human Rights to ensure that States Parties monitor and report on the extent and incidence of commercial sexual exploitation as well as on the violence accompanying them as well as on the establishment of economic alternatives for women and children such that by the year 2010 90% of country reports submit thorough documentation.

Urges United Nations agencies, especially UNIFEM, UN/AIDS, UNDP, INSTRAW, ILO, along with States Parties and Non-Governmental Organizations to refrain from language which dignifies prostitution as a form of labor or legitimately chosen condition such that all UN documents use appropriate language by the year 2005 and that 95% of the legislative and policy-making documents of States Parties reflect appropriate terminology by the year 2005,

Calls upon governments to decriminalize the act or condition of being sexually exploited, and to address the demand side of prostitution by criminalizing the acts of pimping, procuring, sex trafficking, brothel keeping, and purchasing of sex, regardless of the consent given by the sexually exploited;

Urges all governments to ratify the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others such the convention achieves 100% ratification by the year 2005.

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This family care, which is legally mandatory, is indispensable for the well-being and future of society. Nevertheless, the value of such work is still not recognized and it is therefore considered economically unproductive; it is quantified neither in national statistics nor in gross national product (GNP) accounting. Under existing social insurance systems, which are based exclusively on paid employment, persons who work in the home are not entitled to social benefits. Entitlement to an old-age pension presupposes lifelong paid employment.

Women who are or have been working in the home on a full-time basis are considered economically inactive and are therefore quite likely to lead a life of insecurity and exclusion in the event of separation, divorce or widowhood.

Consequently, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Programme of Action for the World Summit for Social Development (1995) (chap. IV, sect. E, para. 64) and the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995) (paras. 165 (g) and 206), the Fédération européenne des femmes actives au foyer requests Governments:

- To recognize and calculate the economic and social value of unpaid family work and incorporate the value of such work into GNP satellite accounts;
- To grant every woman the right to a basic pension which will provide a decent standard of living taking into consideration family time, without reference to her own income or to any employment status, and guaranteeing access to high-quality services and care;
- To give elderly persons the right to be cared for by their families;
- To provide material and psychological assistance to help families take on this additional responsibility.

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world

Statement submitted by Mother's Union, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

The Mothers' Union is an Anglican voluntary organisation promoting the wellbeing of families throughout the world. Our one million members world wide, the majority of whom are women, are actively engaged in a wide variety of initiatives within their own communities. In particular, our *Family*

* E/CN.6/2002/1.

02-23734 (E) 130202

Life and *Literacy and Development* programmes allow for a dynamic process of cradle to grave empowerment of women by women. We have long recognised the key role women play within families and communities, together with the disproportionate burden of poverty carried by women, and identify their empowerment as vital for the building of social capital and for the eradication of poverty. More crucially, women's empowerment is a basic human right. We therefore welcome the opportunity provided by the 46th CSW to address the issue of poverty eradication through women's empowerment, and to submit our recommendations.

Guiding principles

We believe that poverty eradication cannot be fully achieved without the holistic empowerment of women: through giving power to women; enabling women to empower themselves and one another; and nurturing women's sense of place and identity. In keeping with the concept of 'human poverty'[1], we assert that empowerment must take place in not only economic terms but also social, political and personal spheres. The areas in which empowerment is needed varies from woman to woman and differs throughout the life cycle. Empowerment strategies must be sensitive to this, and be responsive to a wide variety of needs.

The globalization phenomenon increases the onus on power-holding states to take responsibility for empowering others, for the benefit of all. We challenge these governments to meet aid targets through monitored, gender-sensitive programmes and model good practice through empowering women (e.g. through implementing the Optional Protocol to CEDAW). Moreover, we note the inequality of access to the opportunities of the globalizing world between rich and poor states. We call for genuine dialogue to identify strategies, which are sensitive to the needs of the South, to redress the consequent disparity in development rates.

[1] As defined by the Human Development Report (1997), United Nations.

Recommendations:

- **Education & training**

Each additional education level a woman attains yields a corresponding reduction in fertility rates and increase in productivity. However, where families are required to pay for children's education at the point of delivery, evidence shows that boys are often educated in preference to girls. In addition, we note the inverse relationship between indebtedness and girls' enrolment in secondary school.

The Mothers' Union calls for a redoubling of effort by governments to achieve the IDT of gender gap closure in primary and secondary education by 2005. Governments must invest in girls' education at every level, including prioritising the provision of universal primary and secondary education, free at the point of delivery. We call for 100% debt cancellation, urging actors and states to honour commitments already made, and to release PRSP money where appropriate use (i.e.: focusing on health or education) can be guaranteed.

- **Representation & status**

We urge state parties to recommit to the target agreed at Beijing that at least 30% of decision-making positions be filled by women, through its adoption as an IDT for 2015. There is a lack of and pressing need for women's voices to be heard at every level in the economy, society and polity. Strategies must be developed to remedy this through increasing women's capacity to govern and make decisions, beginning with widespread implementation of literacy programmes targeting women.

Women must be fully consulted by governments in the derivation of socio-economic policies and participate in genuine dialogue on and the implementation of development strategies. As women and children often suffer disproportionately in conflict situations, women should be involved in peace-making and conflict resolution processes at every level.

Those in positions of authority and influence have a responsibility to initiate changes in attitudes towards women. Government, faith and traditional leaders must work together to identify, challenge and overcome harmful, disempowering practices and attitudes, including those regarding:

- women's economic activity, remuneration, employment and control of money;
- men's active participation in family/caring roles;
- widow's property and inheritance rights;
- violence against women.

The role of spiritual and personal empowerment of women in poverty eradication must not be overlooked. Faith groups should encourage women to take responsibility for their own spirituality. Strategies must be developed by communities for encouraging a culture of mutual affirmation amongst women.

- **Income**

Research shows where women control family income, more is spent on food and children's education, yielding verifiable health benefits and the possibility of breaking the cycle of poverty and female disempowerment through educating girls. That women should have access to independent incomes and be given greater responsibility over finances at all levels of the economy is therefore imperative.

In addition to the removal of educational and cultural barriers to women's achievement of independent incomes, we seek wider use of and investment in grass-roots participative economic empowerment programmes for women, including the development of numeracy and business management skills.

With regard to employment, family welfare is paramount. Governments have a responsibility to introduce and implement legislation ensuring all men and women have access to the minimum level of income necessary to maintain health and wellbeing of children[2]. Where necessary employment laws should be revised to ensure adequate rights and protection for all workers, including informal sector, casual and home workers (of which a significant proportion are women). Governments should work with business and worker representatives towards the provision of widespread quality child-care and family-friendly work practices.

- **Access to resources**

We accept that access to financial resources in addition to education, training and equal opportunities increases productivity, which in turn reduces poverty.

Micro-credit schemes are theoretically invaluable for enabling women to access resources required to become self-sufficient. In practice, however, lending under existing systems means that loan repayment often remains impossible, turning poor people into debtors. The Mothers' Union calls for collaborative research into micro-credit with a view to establishing smaller, women- and family-friendly schemes.

Strategies for channelling poverty reduction funds to grass roots level should be developed for use in local workable initiatives which can have a real impact on poverty: increasing funding to governments or

[2] See United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

agencies is insufficient in itself. Such strategies should include mechanisms for greater accountability and transparency in the use of such funds.

"There are no 'child-neutral' macro-economic and fiscal policies."[3] This is equally true for women. We therefore press for gender and child mainstreaming with respect to national economic policy, and support UNIFEM's call for governments to implement gender responsive budget analysis by 2015. In addition, the Mothers' Union calls for capacity building to enable women to engage in the development of PRSPs, and gender mainstreaming of these programmes, monitored through gender analysis.

We welcome the empowerment brought by the new technologies, notably in terms of access to information, markets and communication. Such resources are key for women who typically enjoy less travel mobility, and whose consultation and involvement in future innovation we would therefore urge. We also acknowledge that these technologies are not currently universally accessible, and urge member states to collaborate in developing strategies to prevent this inequality from becoming a source of further marginalisation and disempowerment of the poorest.

- **Health**

The Mothers' Union subscribes to a holistic approach to healthcare and nutrition, including the employment of a combination of prevention and education strategies, drugs and vaccines, and widespread training in basic care schemes. Despite the recent changes in interpretation of intellectual property legislation, drugs remain inaccessible to the poorest: Primary Health Care and palliative programmes must therefore be emphasised.

[3] James D Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank, 26th February 2001

We welcome the Global Health Fund as potentially key in redressing international disparities in healthcare. However, exacerbation of intra-state inequality must be guarded against through investing in infrastructure to ensure the benefits of the fund reach the poorest.

Given considerations including the IDT to reduce maternal mortality by 2015, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and the correlation of poverty with both early motherhood and high birth rates, it is paramount that all women should be empowered to control their own fertility. Governments and NGOs should work together with faith and community leaders in the promotion of this right, including through the provision of relevant education and resources for women, and the prevention of child marriage and sexual abuse.

Concluding remarks

The Mothers' Union supports the ongoing work towards the International Development Targets, but is concerned that the current rate of progress implies these are unlikely to be achieved. We therefore call for renewed commitment to the IDTs.

Both the lack of acknowledgement and extent of the feminisation of poverty[4] are of grave concern. We challenge member states of the UN to resolve to eradicate this disparity of wealth between the genders by 2015.

[4] Women are 70% of the world's poor.

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective

Statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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* E/CN.6/2002/1.

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Prevention of Natural Disasters:
An Examination of Water and Deforestation Challenges

Submitted on behalf of Human Rights Advocates, Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

1. This statement addresses the second thematic issue for the 46th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women: a gender perspective of environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters. The language of the meeting topic employs a reactionary rather than precautionary policy approach. Preventing conditions that either worsen or create natural disasters that affect women should be an important component of the discussion. This statement proposes a broader framework to consider these issues, specifically a preventative framework and will focus on water and deforestation as examples because of their impact on women's lives. Although natural disasters are nature driven many more are manmade or worsened by a lack of environmental protectionism.

2. Generally, the international free trade discussions focus on economic development. Often to attract foreign investment countries lessen or ignore their environmental laws and standards.[1] An extreme example of this is Russia's President Putin's dissolution of the Committee on Environmental Protection and Forest Service.[2] The extinction of this regulatory agency freed businesses from environmental concerns.

3. Regional trade agreements and organizations encourage economic development without fully addressing environmental concerns. The European Union (EU) demonstrates the other end of the spectrum where free trade flourishes while addressing environmental needs. The EU's work to make environmental crimes such as pollution punishable under criminal law demonstrates their commitment.[3] Trade pacts must incorporate environmental consciousness otherwise they can worsen natural disasters.

4. Environmental destruction, through water scarcity and pollution as well as deforestation, presents serious global challenges.

I. **WATER**

5. Water is a resource impacting many areas of women's lives. Water now is more of a threat to women for the resource is becoming contaminated and scarce. On another level water through flooding can suspend normal life, spread disease and leave many homeless. On average between 1972 and 1996 floods

[1] Food First Volume 7, Number 3 Summer 2001 pg 2.
[2] www.glasnet.ru/~ecojuris.
[3] http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l28062.htm.

affected over 65 million people. Thus, floods have affected more people than any other disaster, including war, drought and famine.[4]

6. The world's drinking water supply has fallen by almost two-thirds since 1950. Every year twelve million people die as a result of water shortages or contamination.[5] By 2050 half the world's population will be living with water sources below what is necessary for agriculture and sanitation.[6] Fifty liters per person per day covers basic human water requirements for drinking, sanitation, bathing and food preparation. In 1990, over a billion people had access far below the minimum water requirement.[7] In Kenya, for example a large family daily purchases between two and eight liters of water per person. Throughout developing countries the poor can pay ten times more for water than the wealthy.[8]

7. Water plays an integral role in women's daily lives and lessened amounts of sanitary water poses health risks. Women are the primary water carriers, managers and end-users. Consequently they are the ones in most direct contact with water and therefore most vulnerable to water-related diseases. Moreover unsanitary water usage has been recognized to affect reproduction and spread diseases such as cholera.[9] Often pollution is worsened through flooding by further polluting clean water.

8. Generally "water has moved from being an endless commodity that may be taken for granted to a rationed necessity that may be taken by force."[10] Many of the people who will face lack of water reside in developing countries requiring more water to support their development.[11] Inadequate water and sanitation facilities constitute some of the most critical problems faced by the developing world. Approximately eighty percent of all sickness and diseases can be attributed to inadequate water supply and sanitation facilities.[12] For this reason it becomes exceedingly necessary to recognize the challenges and take steps to meet them.

9. The lack of water and poor sanitation threaten the human rights to life and health recognized in numerous international agreements including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on

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[4] http://www.dams.org/report/report_factsheet.htm.
[5] HTTP://WWW.DSE.DE/AKTUELL/COP4NEWS.HTM.
[6] Lowry, Joan. Water Supply Won't Meet World's Needs, San Francisco Chronicle, Sunday November 11, 2001.
[7] http://www.dams.org/report/report_factsheet.htm.
[8] www.ifrc.org/docs/news/99/99032201.
[9] In These Times, April 30, 2001 and ww.wifrc.org/docs/nnews/99/99032201.
[10] Global Water Corp (Food First Vol 7, Number 3, Summer 2001 pg. 3.
[11] Id.
[12] Sally Sontheimer, Women and the Environment. Monthly Review Press 1991.

Civil and Political Rights.[13] Water is one essential component of providing women these universal rights. To ensure people have this right the covenant employs states to take steps to fully realize these rights by improving all aspects of environmental hygiene. Hygiene and water have a close relationship when polluted water becomes unsafe to drink, and spreads disease.

II. DEFORESTATION

10. Deforestation creates situations where natural disasters are more likely to occur and in their occurrence affect women. Destroying the forests "entails not only the extinction of an unimaginable number of living species of flora and fauna, but also the annihilation of the hopes and rights of future generations."[14]

11. Forests directly impact the lives of women worldwide. The destruction of the forests causes multiple problems within households and leads to larger natural disasters associated with erosion and desertification. Trees provide livelihood, nutrition and shelter for many in rural economies.

> In non-industrial regions, trees are inextricably woven into the rural and household economies. They are used to provide fuel, fodder and food. They supply medicines and shade, increased soil fertility, shelter from the wind and protection from the rain. From them women fashion many of the products used in the house- and, often enough, the house itself. Perhaps most importantly of all, trees and forests provide many rural women with their only source of personal income.[15]

Every part of a tree has a purpose. Leaves, seeds, pods, sap and bark all have nutritional purposes.[16] Current events have lessened the availability of trees and deprived women of the relatively easy access they once had to tree products. Some say this problem reflects an orientation of current development programs towards cash rather than household economies.

12. Every year since 1990 six million hectares of productive land have been lost to land degradation.[17] Deforestation increases landslide chances that can seriously affect women's lives. El Salvador is a tragic example where development, population growth and war attributed to deforestation after which erosion

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[13] 11/08/2000 E/C.12/2000/4.
[14] Luigi Campiglio et all. The Environment after Rio: International Law and Economics, Grahm & Trotman Ltd, 1994, page 65.
[15] Sally Sontheimer, Women and the Environment. Monthly Review Press 1991, page 67.
[16] Id at 68.
[17] http://www.dse.de/aktuell/cop4news.htm.

and an earthquake caused major economic and environmental harm.[18] Many of the landslides following the earthquake were the result of the tree loss and construction of buildings on those lands.

13. "Rio left the door wide open for countries to continue unsustainable uses of forests."[19] One example is in Mexico, where forestry requirements have been eased for business. Specifically the 1986 Forestry Law did not limit developing forests into commercial plantations. These standards opened the door for a World Bank loan aimed at developing Chihuahua and Durango's forests.[20] The notion of developing forests threatens environmental stability and can as in El Salvador enable natural disasters to cause further devastation to the environment that will end up affecting women.

14. Recognizing the huge trend for ridding the world of forests the international community has laws aimed at helping to alleviate this loss.[21] The Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 adopted at the Rio Conference paved the way for forestry accountability and stabilizing the environment for women.

15. Agenda 21 Chapter 11 reflects a global forestry conscience and commitment to developmental and environmental cooperation.[22]

Agenda 21 recognizes that:

> states have the sovereign and inalienable right to utilize, manage and develop their forests in accordance with their development needs and level of socio-economic development and on the basis of national policies consistent with sustainable development and legislation[23]

In contrast Principle 2 of the Rio Declaration recognizes that "states have… the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies."[24] This clause has been interpreted to allow state sovereignty as a means to escape international environmental regulations

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[18] In These Times, April 30, 2001.
[19] Luigi Campiglio et all. The Environment after Rio: International Law and Economics, Grahm & Trotman Ltd, 1994, page 69.
[20] Id.
[21] http://www.unccd.int/convention/text/leaflet.php.
[22] http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/agenda21chapter1.htm http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/iff-ifpd.htm.
[23] Luigi Campiglio et all. The Environment after Rio: International Law and Economics, Grahm & Trotman Ltd, 1994, page 68.
[24] Luigi Campiglio et all. The Environment after Rio: International Law and Economics, Grahm & Trotman Ltd, 1994, page 44.

that could be attached to lending programs. Sovereignty without responsibility adds to the potential for natural disasters in that states lack incentives to develop and protect the environment.

III. HRA RECOMMENDS THAT THE CSW:

A. Support the Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights working group's Draft Universal Human Rights Guidelines for Companies,[25] and suggest that they be made mandatory.

B. Suggest to ECOSOC that it request that UN bodies affecting trade and development consider the specific impact of the environment on human rights as they affect women and girls. With the following examples as possible methods to prevent creating or worsening natural disasters:

1. Water

a) Growing needs and a dwindling resource base will require many countries to reassess their water management policies. The international community can support and encourage these efforts and work to make water affordable to the poor and lessen the threats of flooding in carrying disease and taking homes.

2. Deforestation

a) Suggest that deforestations affect on human rights be taken into account and specifically encourage good management of forests so that the rights of women are not harmed.

b) The Commission could recognize and/or support efforts to have products labeled as coming from a well managed forest.[26]

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[25] E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/33, draft guidelines E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/WG.2/WP.1/Add.1.
[26] http://www.fscoax.org/principal.htm.